ROTATIONAL FREEDOM FOR A BODY ORGAN

ABSTRACT

The invention provides techniques for securing a manipulating device that holds a moving organ, such as a beating heart. The manipulating device may be held securely and yet accommodate the natural rotational motion of the organ. In an exemplary application of the invention, an manipulating device holds the heart by the apex. The manipulating device is coupled to a support shaft, which is coupled to a key. The key is shaped so that it can engage a socket of a keyway in a securing structure. When the key engages the socket, the securing structure supports the key, which in turn supports the support shaft, the manipulating device and the heart. The rotational freedom of the heart is accommodated by, for example, allowing the support shaft to twist or by allowing the key to rotate in the socket.